

Z 291745Z OCT 74 ZFF-1 ZYH  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM  
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
ZEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L EYES ONLY

47492

18 19  
WH42974

25X1

TOHAK 66

PLEASE PASS TO GOMPERT/BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY

TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

1. FOR HIS IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE, THE PRESIDENT WALKED INTO THE PRESS ROOM RATHER THAN HOLDING IT IN THE OVAL OFFICE. ON THE WHOLE, HE DID VERY WELL AND CAME ACROSS IN A VERY POSITIVE COMPETENT FASHION. WE WILL SEND YOU THE FOREIGN POLICY PORTIONS AS SOON AS THE TRANSCRIPT IS COMPLETED. ONE OF THE FIRST QUESTIONS HE GOT, HOWEVER, WAS ON THE RABAT SUMMIT AND THE PLO. (I HAD GIVEN HIM THE BASICALLY "NO COMMENT" LANGUAGE I OUTLINED IN TOHAK 64.) THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWER IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE A TWO-PART QUESTION ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

NUMBER ONE, IN THE EMERGENCE OF THE PLO IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HOW DOES THIS AFFECT OUR POSITION REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST?

AND THE SECOND PART, ALSO ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NEGATIVE REPORTS OUT OF JAPAN AND ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS AND ITEMS LIKE THAT, WHETHER YOU ARE RECONSIDERING GOING TO JAPAN.

THE PRESIDENT: LET ME ANSWER THE SECOND QUESTION FIRST. NO DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN HAVE CHANGED MY ATTITUDE. I INTEND TO GO TO JAPAN, AS HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME.

THE DECISION BY THE ARAB NATIONS TO TURN OVER THE NEGOTIATING FOR THE WEST BANK TO THE PLO MAY OR MAY NOT -- AT THIS STAGE WE AREN'T CERTAIN WHAT IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON OUR ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WE, OF COURSE, FEEL THAT THERE MUST BE MOVEMENT TOWARDS SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT ON THE ONE HAND, BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN OR THE PLO ON THE OTHER, AND THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA IN THE OTHER CATEGORY.

WE HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY YET TO MAKE ANY FIRM DECISION ON WHAT IMPACT THERE WILL BE FROM THAT ARAB DECISION. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT WE THINK IT IS OF MAXIMUM IMPORTANCE THAT CONTINUED MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE ON A JUSTIFIABLE BASIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS VITAL TO THAT AREA OF THE WORLD, AND PROBABLY TO THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.

2. SISCO JUST CALLED TO TELL ME THAT HE HAS TOLD JOHN KING TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY NO COMMENT TODAY.

392

#6441

ON-FILE NSC  
RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLY

NNNN